

Thornton Academy Middle School Free Meal Program Eligibility and Important Information for Municipally Funded Students from Dayton and Arundel

TAMS offers a free breakfast and lunch program to all eligible Dayton and Arundel students. TAMS is a private school and does not accept Federal or State funding for our free meal program.

In order to qualify for the program, you must complete and submit a Free Meal Program Application on-line through our third-party vendor [MySchoolApps](#) as soon as possible, but **no later than September 11, 2026**, and meet the following guidelines:

- Households receiving food stamps (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or benefits from the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) **OR**
- State Agency Clients **OR**
- Total household income is the same as or below the amount reflected in the Income Guidelines chart. Please note, the income amounts below reflect 260% of the Federal poverty guidelines. Thornton Academy/TAMS provides **FREE** breakfast and lunch to students who meet these criteria (vs Federal guidelines of free meals to those with income at or below 130% and reduced meals for those with income at or below 185%). *School officials may verify the information submitted.*

2026-2027 Monthly Income To Qualify

Household Size	Monthly Income To Qualify	Household Size	Monthly Income To Qualify
1	\$ 3458	5	\$ 8381
2	\$ 4,689	6	\$ 9611
3	\$ 5,919	7	\$ 10842
4	\$ 7150	8	\$ 12073

Add \$1,231 for each additional household member.

If you are applying for more than one Thornton Academy/TAMS student, you only need to submit one application.

All outstanding balances on student debit accounts must be settled prior to approval of the free meal program application. If you are unsure if your child/children currently has/have a negative balance, please contact Sandra Hopkins (207) 602-4431 or Sandra.hopkins@thorntonacademy.org, or, log into your MySchoolBucks account.

Students enrolled in the TAMS free meal program may select one breakfast and one lunch daily from all meal options available at no cost. Typical breakfast selections include a breakfast sandwich, breakfast burrito or muffin, served with fruit and a choice of milk or water. Typical lunch options include sandwiches, salads or a hot entrée meal, served with fruit and a choice of milk or water.

Additional meals, other bottled beverages and snacks at the register are available for purchase with the MySchoolBucks prepaid meal account.

TAMS maintains a cashless cafeteria. All students, including free meal program recipients, are required to create a MySchoolBucks (MSB) meal account. By having an MSB account, you will be able to view all purchases, add money to accounts, and receive emails notifying you when the account balance is low and needs replenishment.

Parents/guardians of free meal program recipients are not required to add funds to the student's MSB account, however, if the student chooses options that are not approved items, they will be asked to put the items back if funds are not available.

TAMS and Flik Dining Services staff are committed to offering free, nutritious meals to all eligible students, while also maintaining confidentiality. To avoid confusion at the cash register, please review the free approved breakfast and lunch guidelines above with your child.

****All daily menu choices can be viewed on-line at myschooldining.com****